

## Timely Tidbits ...

### Family Night in Taylor

Family Night – a program featuring pizza, pop, and a comedy & magic show by BoBo the Clown – is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, January 30, at the Heritage Park Activity Building (12111 Pardee Road).

Admission is \$7 per person. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Taylor Recreation Office (22805 Goddard Road). No tickets will be sold at the door.

For information, call the Recreation Department: 734-374-3906.

### Roast Beef Dinner

The next in a series of roast beef dinners hosted by the Community United Methodist Church (11160 Olive Street, Romulus) will be held on Saturday, February 14, from 5 to 7 p.m. The dinners – open to all – include roast beef, mashed potatoes, vegetables, roll, dessert, and beverage. Takeouts and deliveries to the Romulus area are available.

Suggested donation is \$8 for adults; \$4 for children 6 to 12.

For info, call 734-941-0736.

### Huron CERT Class

Residents interested in Huron Township's next CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) class, which begins February 17, are invited to visit [www.hurontownshipcert.com](http://www.hurontownshipcert.com) to learn more about the 30-hour/5-week training program, which will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday at the Kryzyske Senior Center in Waltz.

For more information, contact Dan Spangler (734-344-0239) or Kristy Novicki (734-775-5622).

### Deadline Nears for School Board Candidates

Residents who would like to run for one of two available seats on the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education in the May 5, 2009 election have until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, February 10, to file for candidacy with the Romulus City Clerk's office.

Candidates may submit petitions with a minimum of 40 signatures from registered voters residing in the district, or pay a \$100 fee.

Call 734-942-7540 for info. □

## Adams Receives MPRA's Community Service Award

Reverend Steve Adams, pastor of the Romulus Wesleyan Church, has been chosen as a recipient of the Michigan Parks and Recreation Association's Community Service Award. "Pastor Steve," as he is affectionately known to many in the community, is involved in many activities that positively impact the City of Romulus Parks and Recreation Department. He organizes programs such as roller-hockey and 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, and works on events such as "Movies in the Park" and the annual Romulus Parade of Lights.

Pastor Steve also serves on the Romulus Christian Ministerial Alliance, which focuses on programs that bring the entire community together. These programs include the City's annual celebration of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the annual National Day of Prayer service, a community-wide Good Friday service, and a weekly Bible study at the Romulus Tower senior-citizen apartment building.

Among Pastor Steve's other endeavors on behalf of others is his work with World

*continued on page 4*



Reverend Steve Adams (second from right), pastor of the Romulus Wesleyan Church, was in Lansing on January 7 to receive the Michigan Parks and Recreation Association's Community Service Award. Those who attended the presentation dinner included his wife Wendy (third from right); Dennis Schornack, MPRA executive director (right); Kristin Irwin, director, City of Romulus Parks and Recreation Department (second from left); Tanya Cofield, assistant director (third from left); and Sheila Stewart, secretary (left). Photo by R. E. Kadau

## New Turbine Gives City of Taylor First Blast of Wind Energy

The City of Taylor has become the first Downriver municipality to implement "greener" initiatives through the use of a commercial wind turbine.

The 45-foot turbine, installed at the Heritage Park Petting Farm on January 13, will reduce energy costs and also serve as a teaching tool for visitors. It complements a 4-kW photovoltaic system – installed last month – that features 21 solar panels.

According to Mayor Cameron G.

Priebe, who was recently honored for spearheading his city's green initiatives [see story on page x], Taylor's \$89,000 hybrid energy program is projected to cut the petting farm's energy costs by 40%. It's one of 30+ projects designed to reduce the City's energy consumption and carbon footprint – and, in the process, save taxpayers' dollars.

Heritage Park Petting Farm is located at 12803 Pardee Road, on the northeast corner of Pardee and Northline. It offers a

year-round, hands-on experience for the young and young at heart in a unique park atmosphere. Besides a heated barn, which is home to a variety of live animals, the farm also features a welcome center that serves as an activity room for birthday parties, field trips, and other special events.

Annually, the farm attracts about 22,000 visitors from southeast Michigan.

For more information, including rates, call 734-374-5946. □



The Heritage Park Petting Farm's new wind turbine – pictured above, behind and to the right of the building – is part of a hybrid energy program projected to reduce the farm's energy costs by about 40%. Photo by Dave Gorgon; see additional photo on page 5



## Letters to the Editor

*Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached to verify the letter's authenticity.*

*Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. All letters requesting anonymity will be treated confidentially, regardless of whether or not they are printed.*

*The little paper reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity, content, and brevity.*

*For information, call 734-941-1907.*

\* \* \*

### Romulus Residents Should Get Best Rate at RAC

To the Editor:

Businesses have a responsibility to shareholders. The administration has a responsibility to taxpayers.

Our Romulus Athletic Center began with an estimated cost of \$16 million and ended with a cost of \$26 million, paid for with Romulus Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) dollars. That's a lot of money for a city with our population.

The RAC's operating costs began with an estimate of just over \$1 million, and now will need an adjusted budget of \$2 million. It has required an infusion of City of Romulus General Fund and TIFA dollars to meet those operating costs because memberships are still at less than half of what's needed. (Estimated membership required is 4,300; current memberships are 2,100, according to City of Romulus Economic Development director Tim Keyes.) Operating expenses, including security, are not required to go out to bid, but are controlled by Rink Management, the company that operates the RAC.

At the January 13 open study session with the Romulus City Council, TIFA, and Rink Management, it was stated that approximately 65% of the RAC's membership was composed of Romulus residents. Maybe that would change if the motto became "Romulus residents come first," and they received the best rate for membership. Then more residents could afford membership.

I thought the RAC was built for Romulus residents, not nearby communities and Metro Airport. I think it's a shame that Northwest/Delta employees get the best rate (while residents pay 40% more) because they comprised a corporate block of 100 employees. Those employees pay less than Romulus senior citizens, who receive the lowest resident rate available. Employee families pay \$240 (\$160 less than our resident families) for the basic "boarding pass" membership.

I would like to see more residents be able to enjoy our facility, and cost is the main factor for many families.

Sandra Crout  
Romulus

### Romulus Family Grateful for Help at the Holidays

To the Editor:

During this economic downturn that most of us are experiencing, when many of us have much to worry about, my family also has many thanks to give our community and those who found it in their hearts to donate their time and money to organizations and charities such as the Goodfellows.

I find it extremely difficult to know where to begin to thank all who were involved in making Christmas such a wonderful experience for my family this year. I'm sure our story is one of thousands of those here in Michigan who have been affected by the economy. Unlike the hundreds who had good paying jobs at the Big Three and have lost them, our family has never had the experience of the "good life," although, at first glance, many would find it hard to believe that we are a "family in need." Living on a tight budget, we pride ourselves on finding the absolute best price on things in our everyday life.

Supporting a family of six on a budget of about \$30,000 a year was challenging, but, when the economy took a turn southward, we were in trouble. My employer started laying people off, cutting hours, etc. Soon, my family was actually struggling to bring home \$20,000. We've been living modestly, without outside help – but, when the end of 2008 approached, we knew that we would not be able to provide our children with some of the basics, such as a good meal and warm winter clothing. We decided to swallow our pride and sought help here in our community.

We were accepted to receive assistance from the Romulus Goodfellows, and were overjoyed when Linda from the City Assessor's Office called us and said that we were going to be adopted by the UPS support services office in Romulus. Through our church, St. Alfred Parish in Taylor, we received help from the Society of St. Vincent DePaul and an anonymous parishioner. We went from tears of worry to tears of joy. The assistance we received helped ensure that our family had a very merry Christmas.

In addition to being thankful to those who thought about our family, such as Karen at St. Alfred and Linda at the Goodfellows, we are grateful to those who give selflessly to these organizations and donate their time to these charities to ensure that families such as ours don't go without a joyful Christmas. We're also grateful to the employees at UPS who "adopted" us for the holiday. You brought a bright light to our family during a very dark financial period.

Christmas 2008 was a time of many blessings. Our prayers are with those who help the community, and we wish them many blessings for the good that they do.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S.  
Romulus □

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Publisher  
Founder  
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# Guest Commentaries

## Lambert, Romulus Officials Eager To Work with Obama Administration

By Mayor Alan R. Lambert, City of Romulus  
Happy New Year to Romulus residents. I hope your holidays were safe and happy.

We have begun the new year with some historic changes in our government at the federal level – changes that we believe will signal a brighter future for Michigan and our community.

President Barack Obama has been sworn into office, and we are confident this new administration is focused on getting America on its feet. Part of getting America back on its feet entails helping Michigan and its communities get back on their feet.

We want you to know that we are exploring the ways in which the promises of the Obama-Biden administration can help our community. We have developed a comprehensive Federal Economic Recovery Plan that will be requesting funding for roads, buildings, and other infrastructure projects. We promise to seek out any new funding which may become available for our community.

President Obama has discussed providing new jobs to America by investing in green technologies and renewable energy. He has also promised to “partner with America’s automakers to help save jobs and ensure that the next generation of clean vehicles is built in the United States.” We sincerely hope the new president will focus on efforts that will help Southeastern Michigan. We will work to show him that Romulus is the kind of strong community that is worth investing in for a better tomorrow.

The Obama administration also plans to “save one million jobs and create new ones through immediate investments to rebuild America’s roads and bridges and repair our schools.” That is the kind of funding that could help us improve our community.

It is important for you to know that we are doing everything we can on behalf of the City of Romulus to make our voices heard in the new administration.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Romulus Athletic Center Is Investment in Healthy Families, Quality of Life

By Dan Bales, Romulus resident, TIFA Board member, and RAC member

Romulus officials recently updated City leaders and the public on steps the City is taking to put the new Romulus Athletic Center on solid ground so it can continue to serve its rapidly growing membership for years to come.

The meeting, held January 13 at the RAC, was productive and constructive. The City Council members, the Tax Increment Finance Authority board, and the public in attendance gave tremendously encouraging and positive feedback to the strategy the City is proposing to strengthen one of the jewels in our community.

The Council and TIFA board’s show of support for these steps sends a signal to the citizens of Romulus that we are committed to continually improving the quality of life for our families, and investing in facilities that make our community an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

When I talk to citizens, they say the Romulus Athletic Center is a real asset to our community. Time and time again, they say the RAC has helped seniors and families get healthy. Educators and public-safety

officials see the RAC as a place for youth to engage in constructive activities after school or during the summer. We are grateful to have a top-quality health facility, right in our community, that’s one of the most affordable around. The RAC has also received statewide recognition, winning the Keep Michigan Beautiful President’s Plaque for its positive benefits to the community.

Only nine months old, the RAC is clearly moving in the right direction. It is making constant improvements to meet the needs of our citizens. It is offering new programs, better hours, and other refinements regularly. Its membership has grown every month since it opened in April 2008.

Now, thanks to the aggressive steps the City is putting in place, the RAC is on track to break even by 2011, which is on par with successful start-ups, many of which take years to break even.

The Romulus Athletic Center is an affordable, convenient facility that is popular with the public and an asset to the community. I am excited for the City to have a strategy that will strengthen it and ensure it can continue to serve our families for years to come. □

### Free report reveals amazing alternatives to low-paying CDs and risky stock market! Find out what your banker and broker don't want you to know!

“I still have trouble believing that my client was only making 2% on those lousy CDs.” Like most people, she was convinced there really wasn’t any safe alternatives that would pay her any more without risking her nest egg. She had been dealing with her bank for over 17 years, and was simply stunned to find out that they wouldn’t do any better than 2.23% on her CD, even though they were charging her over 15% on her credit card. “They didn’t even care that I had been such a loyal customer all these years.” The sad truth is ... this scene is not that uncommon.

The bottom line is that most people put their money with banks because they want safety of their principle and because they’re afraid of this roller coaster of a stock market. However, most people don’t know that there are safe alternatives that pay you better returns and have tax advantages. If you are sick and tired of your 2% CDs earning such

pitiful interest, and are rightfully scared of the crazy and risky stock market, the answer to your frustrations just may be contained in this free report. This report is designed to help consumers find alternatives to CDs and the stock market that not only safely protect their nest eggs, but that also provide many tax advantages.

The report explains that most people make two costly mistakes when investing. (1) They fail to seek alternatives. Instead, they listen to the advice of a friend or family member. (2) They fail to look at the impact that taxes can have on the investments they choose.

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### Romulus Celebrates Life/Work of Dr. King



Despite frigid temperatures, hundreds of local dignitaries, business leaders, and residents gathered on January 19 to celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Participants in a symbolic walk from Cory Elementary to Romulus High School warmed up at a pancake breakfast fund-raiser prepared and served by members of the Romulus Rotary and their younger counterparts, the Romulus High School Interact Club. A commemorative program held in the RHS auditorium wrapped up the day’s activities. Photo by R. E. Kadam



## Taylor Discontinues Traffic Detail

The City of Taylor has discontinued its Police Department's Traffic Detail Program, according to a statement issued by officials last week. The program was operated by police officers working during off-duty hours. The Police Department's three regular patrol shifts will not be impacted.

"The program was terminated because the City had serious concerns over the long-term impact that overtime pay associated with the Traffic Detail will have on the viability of the City's pension system," said City attorney John Clark. "Since police officers working Traffic Detail did so exclusively during off-duty hours, they were being paid at the officer's overtime rate. According to their union contract, when a police officer works overtime, that pay is factored into the amount of pension pay an officer will receive at retirement."

City officials say they are concerned that pension costs are escalating at an astonishing rate.

"In 2002," explained Clark, "the City's contribution toward funding pensions was \$579,000. In 2008, that contribution grew to more than \$4,977,000 – an increase of 759%. Further, police and fire retiree health-care costs jumped from \$1,772,000 in 2002 to \$2,032,700 in 2008 – a 70% increase."

"For 2009, 25% – or one in every four dollars of City taxes collected for the General Fund – will go exclusively to fund police and firefighter retiree costs."

The City's administration is aware that the elimination of the Traffic Detail will have an impact on cash flow, given that the Traffic Detail generates revenue through court fines, but says it has already taken steps to address those concerns through the elimination of certain costs, not only in the Police Department, but in other departments, as well.

"Any decrease in police and fire pension benefits will result in a direct tax savings to the taxpayer," Clark noted.

It has not yet been decided whether the Traffic Detail will be reinstated in the future. □

## Adams Honored

*continued from page 1*

Hope, an organization that provides disaster relief to people in need. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, he organized three relief trips to Louisiana, and two trips to Kansas after a deadly tornado. His most recent relief effort was in Texas.

His work is also instrumental to My Brother's Keeper, which provides food to the homeless in downtown Detroit.

Pastor Steve was recognized at the annual MPRA Community Service Awards Night, held January 7 at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. Among those who attended the presentation were his wife Wendy and several officials from the Romulus Parks and Recreation Department. □

## Taylor Girl Wins Fire Safety Bike Raffle



Hope McParland, 7, of Taylor, won a free bicycle for completing the Taylor Fire Safety Program. Pictured with her and her mom Lisa are (from left) Fire Medic Jose Stachulski, Captain Inspector Jesse Kriebel, Fire Medic William Caruso, Sergeant Jeremy Johns, and Captain Stephen Portis. Photo by Kathleen Trent

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## Basham Supports New Bridge to Canada

State Senators Ray Basham (D-Taylor) and Glenn S. Anderson (D-Westland) have spoken out in strong support of the U.S. Department of Transportation's recent approval to move forward on plans to build a second border crossing between Michigan and Ontario. As Senators from Wayne County and members of various transportation committees, Basham and Anderson are significant proponents of the proposal.

According to Basham, the "Record of Decision" (ROD) signed by U.S. officials represents the Detroit River International Crossing's (DRIC) final environmental clearance to gain project approval, following four years of consultations, public hearings, traffic analyses, and environmental studies. Michigan may now begin right-of-way acquisition and construction planning for the bridge.

"While the debate on DRIC has dragged on for far too long in Lansing, this action by the U.S. Department of Transportation shows that there are no environmental concerns with this project," said Basham, the Minority Vice Chair on the Senate Transportation Committee and a longtime advocate of the DRIC project. "And, in moving forward, we can now focus on the economic concerns of the state, creating jobs, and increasing commerce."

"At a time when so many headlines around the state are negative," he continued, "this is great news, and a prime example of how closely our infrastructure and our economy are related."

Figures released by Basham indicate that the United States and Canada share

the largest bilateral trade relationship in the world, and states in the Great Lakes region account for more than half of this trade—supporting 7.1 million U.S. jobs. Michigan accounts for more than half of the total U.S. trade with Canada. International trade and commerce supports more than 221,500 Michigan jobs; almost 60 percent of Michigan goods are exported to Canada. Activity on the new crossing on the Michigan side of the border is projected to create 10,000 construction jobs and more than 30,000 indirect jobs during the construction period.

"Michigan's opportunities for international trade and commerce with Canada have been stuck in traffic long enough," said Anderson, a member of the Michigan Transportation Funding Task Force. "Opening up another avenue for personal and professional transportation between our state and our neighbor to the north will result in construction jobs now, and increase the flow of economic activity for years to come."

If completed, the project—including a plaza where tolls and U.S. border inspection activities will occur, and an interchange connecting it to I-75—would span nearly seven miles. Under current estimates, construction on the new crossing could begin in 2010, and the bridge could be open to traffic in 2013. Of course, such estimates preclude delays due to various legal challenges, which many consider inevitable.

The process to complete DRIC's federal environmental documentation lasted less than four years and included more than 100 meetings and public hearings. □

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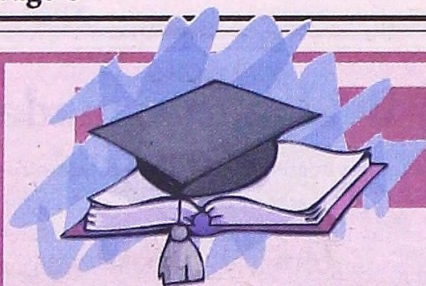
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### Wind Turbine Will Save on Energy Costs



Representatives of the Taylor Department of Public Works Buildings and Grounds crew, Ceresit Energy, and Fairfax Electric prepared to hoist the new wind turbine into the sky at the Heritage Park Petting Farm in Taylor. Photo by Dave Gorgon





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Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) class is \$500 – due by February 24<sup>th</sup>. (Class starts March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.)

Tuition-based classes require a \$100 (cash or check) deposit – due at registration.

\*All students must pay a \$10 Registration Fee – due at registration.

### **WHEN DO CLASSES START & HOW LONG DO THEY RUN?**

All classes, except CNA, start the week of February 2<sup>nd</sup> and run for a 16-week semester.

### **WHEN & WHERE CAN I REGISTER?**

Register at our Adult Ed Office, located at the

Mt. Pleasant Life-Long Learning Center on Hannan Road in Romulus.

Weekday office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE** for Adult Education is Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, or when a class fills.

**For more information, call 734-532-1956.**

**(For driving directions, call 734-532-1950 and press 1.)**

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Weekday office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Registration for "School of Choice" is January 19<sup>th</sup> through February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009!**

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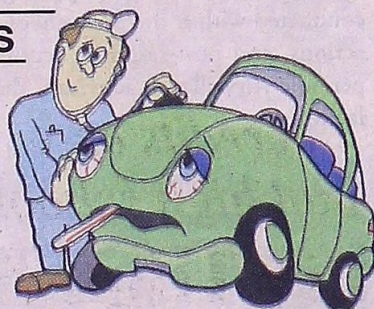
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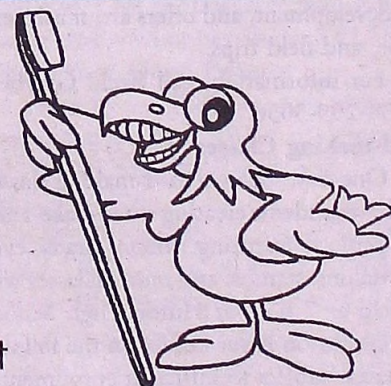


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# Community Calendar

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174-0038; FAX it to 734-992-2052; or e-mail it to [thelittlepaper@comcast.net](mailto:thelittlepaper@comcast.net) no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 30.

## Belleville

### Beyond Earth: Exploring Outer Space!

The final two installments of a three-part Family Reading and Science program, featuring hands-on workshops for children ages 6 to 11 (accompanied by an adult), will be held at the Fred C. Fischer Library (167 Fourth Street) according to the following schedule:

- Planet Adventures! (Saturday, February 21, 3 p.m.), and
- Missions into Space! (Saturday, March 21, 3 p.m.).

For information about the free programs, call 734-699-3291.

### "Legacy Five" in Concert

Bethany Bible Church of Belleville will present "Legacy Five" in concert at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 27, in the auditorium at Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road).

Tickets are \$12 in advance; \$14 at the door (if available).

For information, call 734-697-7456 or visit [www.bethanybiblechurch.com](http://www.bethanybiblechurch.com).

## Huron Township

### Nursery Registration

Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery is accepting enrollment for its 2009-2010 three- and four-year-old classes.

The nonprofit, nondiscriminatory organization – located in St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (19109 Craig Street) – focuses on kindergarten readiness and social development, and offers art, music, exercise, and field trips.

For information, call Becki Graybeal at 734-299-3036.

### Card-making Classes

One-day, seasonal card-making classes will have students creating three make-and-take projects featuring ribbon, brads, eyelets, vellum, stamps, and more. Classes will be held at 7 p.m. at Huron High School (32044 Huron River Drive) on the following dates (subject to sufficient enrollment):

- February 2 – Valentine's Day,
- March 26 – Easter, and
- May 6 – Friendship/Spring.

Cost is \$15. Advance registration is required.

For information, call the YWCA at 734-284-9030.

### Babysitting Class

The Huron Township Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the YWCA, is offering a one-day babysitting class for ages 11 and up.

Topics covered will include responsibilities, home safety, accident prevention, first aid, personal safety, and infant care.

The class will be held at Renton Junior High School (31578 Huron River Drive) from 3 to 6 p.m. on Monday, February 23.

Cost is \$45. Advance registration is required. Space is limited.

For information, call the YWCA at 734-284-9030.

## Romulus

### Beyond Earth

The 2009 Family Reading and Science program to be offered at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) is "Beyond Earth: Exploring Outer Space!" The free program will feature hands-on workshops for children ages 6 to 11 (accompanied by an adult).

Scheduled topics include:

- Look Up at the Sky! (Monday, January 26th, 6 p.m.),
- Planet Adventures! (Monday, February 23rd, 6 p.m.), and
- Missions into Space! (Monday, March 23rd, 6 p.m.).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

### Bowling Event Benefits RHS Class of '79 Reunion Fund

Romulus High School's Class of 1979 is hosting a bowling fund-raiser at Wayne Bowl (36900 Michigan Avenue) at 7 p.m. on Saturday, January 31. The event will raise money for a 30-year reunion to be held sometime in August.

Cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for kids.

For bowling information, call Anthony (313-247-7306) or Duane (248-459-3399).

For information about the reunion – which will also be open to the classes of 1977, '78, '80, and '81 – call Duane or Lisa (734-624-0901). Note: Information about "lost" classmates would be appreciated.

### Second Monday Book Club

Meetings of the Second Monday Book Club – open to everyone 18 and older – are held at the Romulus Public Library (11121 Wayne Road) from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Advance registration is not required for this free program; just read the suggested book, then drop in and enjoy the discussion and refreshments.

Books for future discussions include:

- *American Detective: An Amos Walker Mystery* by Loren D. Estleman (February 9),
- *Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation* by Cokie Roberts (March 9),
- *Thief of Souls* by Ann Benson (April 13), and
- *Anatomy of a Murder* by Robert Traver (May 11).

For information, call 734-942-7589.

### Mother-Son Sweetheart Dance

The City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation will hold its annual Mother/Son Sweetheart Dance on Wednesday, February 11, in the cafeteria at Romulus High School (9650 Wayne Road).

For information, including prices and time, call 734-941-8665.

## Taylor

### Daddy-Daughter Dances

The City of Taylor Department of Golf, Parks, and Recreation will hold its annual Daddy-Daughter Dances on Saturday, February 7, at the William D. Ford Senior Activity Center (6750 Troy Street).

Two dances are scheduled: one from 4 to 6 p.m., and another from 7 to 9 p.m.

The Valentine-themed event includes dancing, hors d'oeuvres, a corsage for the girls, and a keepsake photo.

Since these events always sell out, early ticket purchase is recommended. *No tickets will be sold at the door.* Tickets are \$20 for a father/daughter pair, plus \$5 for each additional daughter.

For information, call 734-374-3906.

## Elsewhere

### Elementary Curriculum Fair and Open House at St. Mary Catholic School

Families interested in enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year are invited to attend a curriculum fair and open house at St. Mary Catholic School (34516 Michigan Avenue, Wayne) on Sunday, January 25, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Guided tours will be offered, and staff members will be present to answer questions. Registration details and tuition assistance information will be available.

For information, call 734-721-1240.

## ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174

## ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION

In accordance with Section 763.84 of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), or the "Asbestos in Schools Rule," Romulus Community Schools is notifying employees and building occupants, or their legal guardians, of activities conducted within the past school year involving the asbestos inspections, response actions, and post-response action activities, including periodic reinspection and periodic surveillance activities, that are planned or in progress at School District facilities.

During the upcoming School Year (the "2008-2009 School Year" – September 2008 through August 2009), Romulus Community Schools has planned the following activities related to asbestos-containing materials throughout the School District:

- *Six-month Periodic Surveillances:* Six-month periodic surveillances will be completed every six months and continue on a regular six-month schedule (next scheduled round: approximately May 2009).
- *Three-year Reinspections:* The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that each school district reinspect all known and assumed asbestos-containing materials once every three years. The three-year reinspection activities for all Romulus Community Schools' facilities were completed in November 2007. The next three-year reinspection is therefore due in November 2010.
- *Asbestos Abatement Projects – Scheduled:* As of the beginning of the School Year, there are no asbestos abatement projects scheduled.

During the previous twelve months (the "2007-2008 School Year" – September 2007 through August 2008), Romulus Community Schools completed the following activities related to asbestos-containing materials throughout the School District:

- *Six-month Periodic Surveillances:* Six-month periodic surveillance activities were completed in November 2007 and May 2008.
- *Asbestos Abatement Projects – Completed:* No asbestos abatement projects were conducted during the 2007-2008 School Year.

AHERA Management Plans are available for review in each school building office or at the Administration Building (36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan). Summaries for all of the asbestos abatement projects conducted prior to the 2007-2008 School Year are located in the AHERA Management Plans, while complete documentation is maintained in the Administration Building.

Questions regarding the asbestos program for Romulus Community Schools may be addressed to Mr. Jeff Heydanek, healthAIR, inc., at 248-426-0165 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



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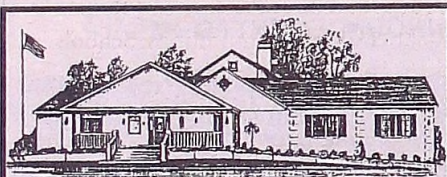
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#### AARP Offers Free Tax-preparation Service

Senior citizens (age 60 and over) and people with disabilities or low incomes are invited to take advantage of a free tax-preparation service that will be offered at the Romulus Senior Center from 12:30 to 3 p.m. each Wednesday beginning February 4 and continuing through April 15. *The service will be available by appointment only.*

Call the Center for more information.

#### Blood Drive

The Romulus Senior Center's annual blood drive will be held on Monday, February 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### Casino Trips

If you're feeling lucky, you won't want to miss these upcoming trips:

- **Caesar's Windsor Casino** (Tuesday, February 24; \$15),
- **Motor City Casino** (Thursday, March 5; \$20),
- **Windsor Raceway Slots** (Thursday, March 26; \$15),
- **Odawa Casino** (Thursday, April 16; \$120), and
- **Windsor Raceway Slots** (Tuesday, April 28; \$15).

#### Ask the Attorney

Local attorney Steve Robinson's monthly "Ask the Attorney" program – a free consultation service for Romulus senior citizens – has been scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28, at the Center.

As always, both walk-ins and call-ins are welcome.

#### Regular Programs

Free or low-cost weekly programs offered at the Romulus Senior Center include:

- buncos (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- fun night (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- game day (Thursdays, 1 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 6 p.m.), and
- walking club (Fridays, 1 p.m.).

#### Hot Lunches Warm Frigid Afternoons

Don't forget that the Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. weekdays (except for holidays) for a suggested donation of only \$2.25. This month's menu includes roast beef, pork chops, barbecue chicken, breaded chicken patties, and stuffed peppers.

Call by noon at least one business day in advance to make your reservation.

#### Keep Your Fitness Resolutions with a Romulus Athletic Center Membership

The beautiful Romulus Athletic Center is offering generous discounts on memberships for Romulus senior citizens age 55 and over. Individuals can join for as little as \$168.75 per year, families (all members must be senior citizens) for as little as \$300.

Romulus seniors can also purchase individual day passes for just \$5.25.

The RAC – located at 35765 Northline – is open Monday through Saturday from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call 734-942-2223 or visit [romulusathleticcenter.com](http://romulusathleticcenter.com) for information.

#### Converter Box Coupons Available

Still not ready for next month's switch to digital programming? The friendly folks at the Romulus Senior Center can help you acquire a coupon for the purchase of up to two converter boxes.

### Taylor

6750 Troy • 313-291-7740

#### AARP Offers Free Tax-preparation Service

Senior citizens (age 60 and over) and people with disabilities or low incomes are invited to take advantage of a free tax-preparation service that will be offered at the Ford each Thursday beginning February 5 and continuing through April 9. *The service will be available by appointment only.*

Call the Center for more information.

#### Sweetheart Dance

The Ford Senior Center is planning a Sweetheart Dance on Monday, February 23, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Tickets (\$7 each) must be purchased by Tuesday, February 17.

#### A Streetcar Named Desire

Enjoy lunch at the Chelsea Grill, then see the Tennessee Williams classic at the Purple Rose Theatre on Wednesday, February 4. Bus will depart at noon and return at approximately 6 p.m.

A cost of \$23 covers transportation and admission; lunch is not included. Advance registration is required.

#### "Tea Socials"

Local seniors are invited to come to the Center each Wednesday at 1 p.m. for board games, cards, or just to socialize.

#### Watercolor Workshops

A drop-in Watercolor Workshop is held at the Center each Thursday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Cost per class is \$7 plus supplies (bring your own or pay an extra \$1.50).

#### Check Your Blood Pressure

Stop by the Ford Senior Center for a free blood-pressure check on Thursday, January 29, from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

#### Focus: HOPE

The Ford Senior Center distributes Focus: HOPE items on the third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Center staff members strongly encourage recipients to be punctual, since items not picked up during the scheduled time will be distributed to other seniors in need.

#### Senior Activity Cards

The City of Taylor is offering its senior citizens (age 55 and older) a Senior Activity Card, which entitles holders to free year-round swimming at City pools, free use of the Taylor Recreation Center, and other discount services. The card – available at the Parks and Recreation Office (22805 Goddard Road) – is \$25.

For details, call 734-374-3906. □



## Romulus Animal Shelter Gets Fresh Look Thanks to Eagle Scout Project

The Romulus Animal Shelter received a much-needed face-lift, thanks to the efforts of a local youth seeking Eagle Scout honors.

On October 25, 14-year-old Joseph Forbush of Romulus led 42 members of Boy Scouts Troop #1742 and volunteers from the local Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in cleaning and beautifying the current Romulus Animal Shelter. Located on Goddard Road, the shelter has served its residents since the late 1930s.

Forbush, a Romulus High School freshman, said he chose his Eagle Scout project after a visit to the shelter.

"I wanted the animals to live in a cleaner, healthier environment, and the officers to work in a freshly painted building," he explained.

To kick off the project, Forbush said, he met with Officers Kim Matthews and Annie Hall of the City's Animal Control Department to get their approval and support. He also presented his project ideas before the Romulus City Council and received unanimous support. Finally, Forbush spoke with City of Romulus Department of Public Works director Tom Wilson and DPW Building and Grounds supervisor Nate Davis, who verified his measurements and provided some supplies to paint the walls and floor.

"The floor where the animals exercise was bare, and desperately needed a paint job," said Forbush. "The offices and reception area also were repainted, as well as the outside doors."



Contributions from local business owners like Ron Kopas (right) of Romulus Hardware were very much appreciated by Joseph Forbush (left), Eagle Scout candidate.

Project volunteers chose jobs from a task sheet when they arrived.

Altogether, Forbush dedicated 228 hours to the project.

Forbush and his mom, Faith Sheptoski-Forbush, expressed their thanks to local businesses – including Romulus Hardware, Subway, Toarmina's Pizza, and Wiseguys Pizza of Romulus; McDonald's of Taylor; Meijer of Belleville; Hungry Howie's of Wayne; and Little Caesars of Westland – for contributing to this worthy cause.

"It is wonderful to see local businesses and residents coming together to serve our wider community and make it a better place to live," said Sheptoski-Forbush. "Man's Best Friend has not been forgotten." □



Forbush was extremely grateful to all the volunteers who helped with the project.

## Thank You

The Family of Floyd LaLonde would like to thank everyone who came to pay their respects, sent flowers, or brought a dish to our home or the funeral home. Your thoughts were gratefully appreciated.



### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Belleville, Brownstown, New Boston, Romulus, or Taylor, **the little paper** will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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### ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

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Bridesmaids \_\_\_\_\_  
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Place \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tickets: \$150.00 Guest Tickets (does not include "Reverse Raffle"): \$75.00

For tickets, contact the Church (734-941-5056), Theresa McLachlan (734-941-3829), or Steve Kertesz (734-740-3444).



# Romulus Community Schools

invites you to attend



## Kindergarten Registration

- Quality education for your child •
- Reading First program in every elementary •
- School latchkey program available •
- Boys & Girls Club available until 8:30 p.m. for \$35/year •  
Includes transportation from home school to Boys & Girls Club schools

**Your child must be 5 years old before December 1, 2009 to register**

### Bring with you:

Child's birth certificate  
Three proofs of residency

Child's health record  
Parent/guardian's photo ID

**Wednesday, February 4 – 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Barth Elementary**  
38207 Barth Road

**734-532-1250**

**Merriman Elementary**  
15303 Merriman Road

**734-532-1400**

**Cory Elementary**  
35200 Smith Road

**734-532-1300**

**Romulus Elementary**  
32200 Beverly Road

**734-532-1450**

**Halecreek Elementary**  
16200 Harrison Road

**734-532-1350**

**Wick Elementary**  
36900 Wick Road

**734-532-1500**

**All-Day Kindergarten in Every Elementary**